

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying agents that are inhibitors of tau-beta amyloid complex formation comprising:

(a) contacting a tau protein derived polypeptide and an aggregated beta-amyloid

5 peptide in the presence and absence of a test agent; and

(b) determining the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the presence and absence of the test agent; and

(c) comparing the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the presence of the test agent with the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the absence of the

10 test agent wherein a test agent which decreases the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed is an inhibitor.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues 244-390 of SEQ ID NO:2

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues 186-332 of SEQ ID NO:4

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues 186-279 of SEQ ID NO:6

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5. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-39 of SEQ ID NO:7

25 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-40 of SEQ ID NO:7

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-41 of SEQ ID NO:7

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8. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-42 of SEQ ID NO:7

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-43 of SEQ ID NO:7

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is
5 determined by scintillation proximity assay.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

10 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by turbidity measurement

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by gel shift assay.

15 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by antibody binding.

15 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by ELISA.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by Western blotting

25 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by fluorescence polarization.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by fluorescence polarization

30 19. The method of claim 1 wherein the tau protein derived polypeptide is labeled.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the tau protein derived polypeptide comprises a tag.

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